MARVEL
005
AVENGERS NOW!
TAYLOR
BRAGA
GURU-eFX
TALES OF SUPERIORITY
featuring
SUPERIOR
IRON MAN
TONY STARK...
...IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU...
...I WOULDN'T BE A MONSTER!
WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ORIGIN OF
TEEN ABOMINATION?!

BE BEAUTIFUL • BE INTELLIGENT • BE HEALTHY • BE IMMORTAL

BE SUPERIOR

Tony Stark is a technological visionary...a famous, wealthy and unparalleled inventor. With the world's most advanced and powerful suit of armor, Stark has valiantly protected the innocent as the golden Avenger known as IRON MAN.

A recent battle with a mentally powered villain has altered Stark's mind. With a more arrogant and aggressive personality surfacing, Stark used San Francisco to beta-test his newest invention, THE EXTREMIS 3.0 App. It can improve people's lives, making them more attractive, smarter and healthier.

A monstrous superhuman who goes by the name of TEEN ABOMINATION attacked the city in an effort to get Tony's attention. He'd taken Extremis 3.0 in hopes of curing his hideous appearance but the app had no effect. He desperately wanted Tony's help. The misunderstood teen was defeated by Iron Man and incarcerated but escaped. This time, Tony took him under his protection and promised to help cure him.

CHAPTER 5: THE ORIGIN OF TEEN ABOMINATION

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Iron Man created by Stan Lee, Don Heck, Larry Lieber and Jack Kirby

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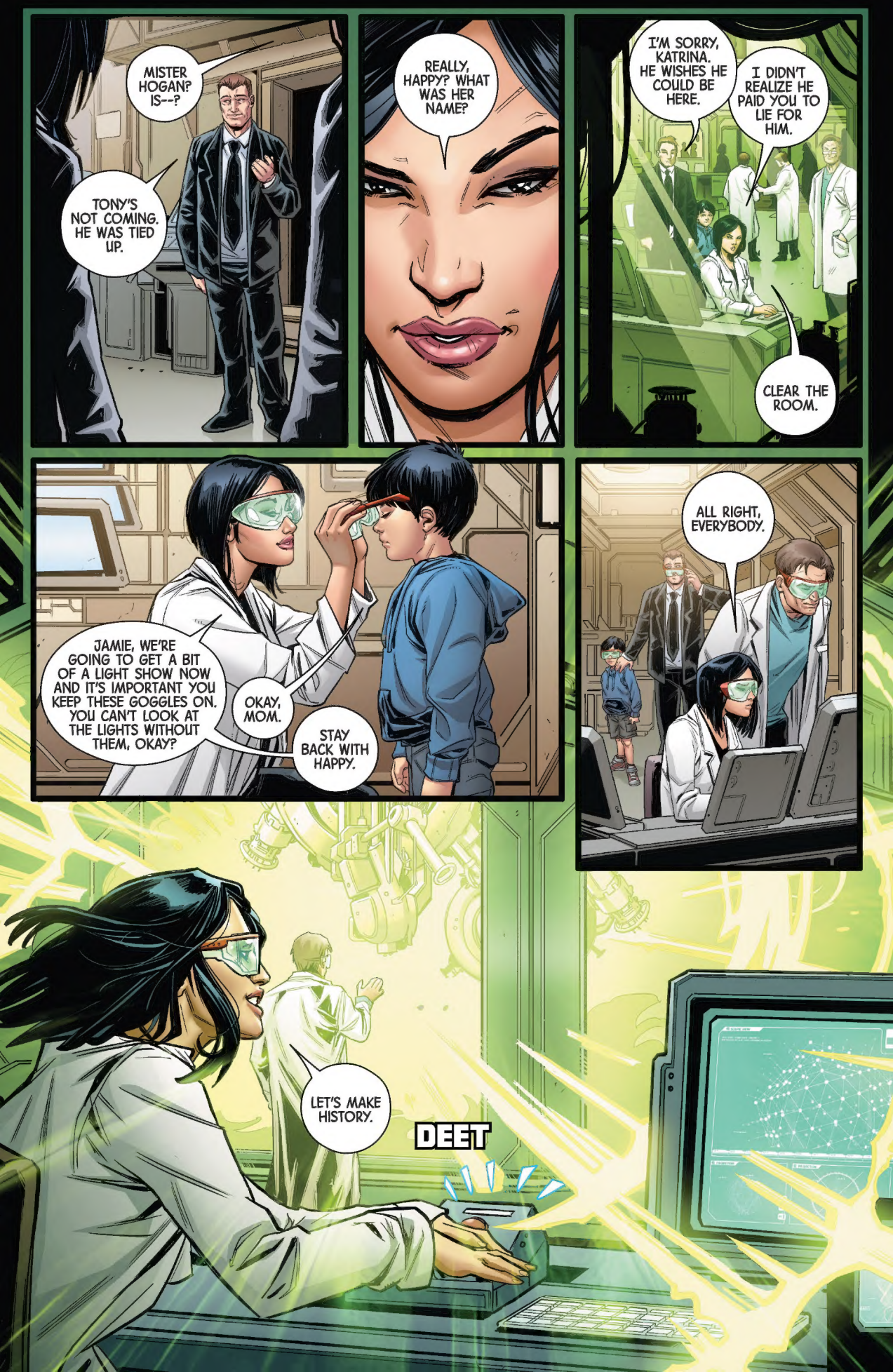
STARK ISLAND.
STARK
I'M NOT GOING TO LIE--
--THIS COULD STING A BIT.
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO TIE MY ARMS DOWN?
LAST TIME YOU GOT ANGRY, YOU THREW A SUPER HERO THROUGH A WINDOW.
I'D LIKE TO TAKE A SMALL BLOOD SAMPLE WITHOUT THE RISK OF DEFENESTRATION.
SO ALL THIS IS TO TAKE SOME BLOOD?
YOU HAVE ALMOST IMPENETRABLE SKIN.
BUT IF I'M BEING HONEST, NONE OF THAT IS TO TAKE BLOOD. IT'S ALL JUST A DISTRACTION.
HUH...?

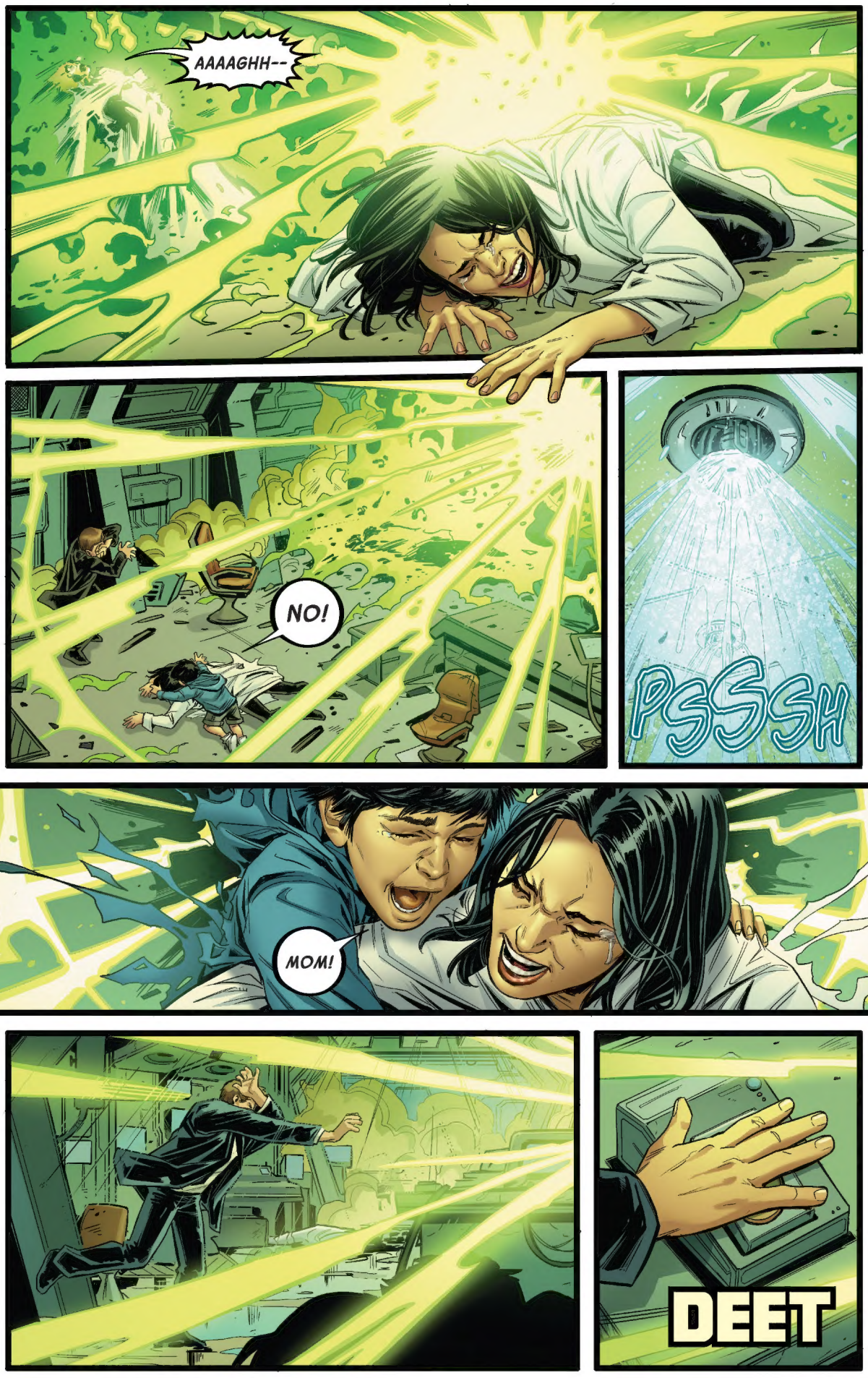
CHOOOOM
SHNK
AGHHHHH!
YOU!
CNK
YOU'RE THIRTEEN YEARS OLD, WHICH MEANS YOU PRETTY MUCH KNOW NOTHING.
SO HERE'S SOME ADVICE BASED ON WORLDLY EXPERIENCE.
YOU REALLY DON'T WANT TO DIRECT SO MUCH AGGRESSION TOWARDS A GUY WITH ALMOST INFINITE RESOURCES WHO WORKED OUT HOW TO STAB RIGHT THROUGH YOUR UNSTABBABLE SKIN.

WHAT DOES THAT DO?
IT PULLS APART EVERY STRAND OF YOUR DNA AND SEARCHES THROUGH IT.
TO FIND WHAT?
EVERYTHING.
WELL, NOT EVERYTHING.
IT SHOULD TELL ME WHAT'S HAPPENING INSIDE YOU. BUT IT WON'T TELL ME HOW YOU WERE TURNED INTO THIS.
SO, THE SEARCH WILL TAKE SOME TIME. I HAVE A SINGLE MALT AND A COUCH. TELL ME YOUR TRAGIC ORIGIN.
I...
DO YOU REMEMBER MY MOM?
WAS SHE EIGHT FEET TALL AND HIDEOUS?
NO.
NO. I FIGURED I'D REMEMBER THAT.
SHE WAS A SCIENTIST.
WAS A SCIENTIST?
YES.
SHE'S DEAD OR UNEMPLOYED?
BOTH.

"SHE WORKED FOR YOU AT STARK INDUSTRIES. HER NAME WAS..."
KATRINA!
STARK INDUSTRI
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
AND WHY IS *HE* HERE?
HE'S SICK.
AND, WHAT? YOU THOUGHT YOU'D BRING HIM IN TO SHARE HIS ILLNESS WITH THE REST OF US?
I COULDN'T GET A SITTER.
TODAY? HE HAD TO GET SICK *TODAY?*
I CAN'T CONTROL ILLNESS, STEVEN. NOT YET.
DID WE GET THE NEW SHIELDING?
YES. IT'S NOT AS THICK AS WE REQUESTED, BUT IT'S ADEQUATE.
GREAT. *"ADEQUATE"* IS WHAT YOU WANT WHEN YOU'RE EXPERIMENTING WITH GAMMA RAYS.
TK TK TK
ACQUISITIONS WOULDN'T APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE.
IT'S LIKE STARK *WANTS* HIS COMPANY TO FAIL.
WILL HE EVEN BE HERE FOR THE DEMONSTRATION?
I DON'T KNOW. *YOU* CLEARLY HAVE MORE ACCESS TO HIM THAN WE DO.
WHAT'S *THAT* SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
I'M SORRY--


MISTER HOGAN? IS--?
TONY'S NOT COMING. HE WAS TIED UP.
REALLY, HAPPY? WHAT WAS HER NAME?
I'M SORRY, KATRINA. HE WISHES HE COULD BE HERE.
I DIDN'T REALIZE HE PAID YOU TO LIE FOR HIM.
CLEAR THE ROOM.
JAMIE, WE'RE GOING TO GET A BIT OF A LIGHT SHOW NOW AND IT'S IMPORTANT YOU KEEP THESE GOGGLES ON. YOU CAN'T LOOK AT THE LIGHTS WITHOUT THEM, OKAY?
OKAY, MOM.
STAY BACK WITH HAPPY.
ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY.
LET'S MAKE HISTORY.
DEET

NAAARGHHH!
TOOOOM


AAAAGHH--
NO!
PSSSH
MOM!
DEET

DECEMBER THIRTEENTH, EIGHT YEARS AGO.
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A GIANT LEAP FORWARD FOR CANCER TREATMENT.
IF IT WORKED, IT WOULD HAVE MADE THE GAMMA KNIFE* LOOK LIKE A BLUNT INSTRUMENT.
*THE GAMMA KNIFE IS A REAL MEDICAL TOOL AND NOT SOMETHING BRUCE BANNER INVENTED. -DOC PANIC!
TWO PEOPLE WERE CRITICALLY INJURED.
YOU REMEMBER?
I REMEMBER READING THE REPORT. SOME OF THOSE DAYS ARE A BIT... HAZY.
MY MOM SAID IT HAPPENED BECAUSE YOU WERE NEGLECTING THE COMPANY.
I WAS.
SHE WAS FIRED.
BY ME?
NO. SHE COULDN'T SEE YOU.
YEAH. I WAS ALWAYS BUSY BACK THEN. LEADING A DOUBLE LIFE DIDN'T LEAVE MUCH ROOM FOR THE LITTLE THINGS.
LITTLE THINGS?
AND THAT WAS THE DAY THE BLACK LAMA RETURNED.
WHAT?

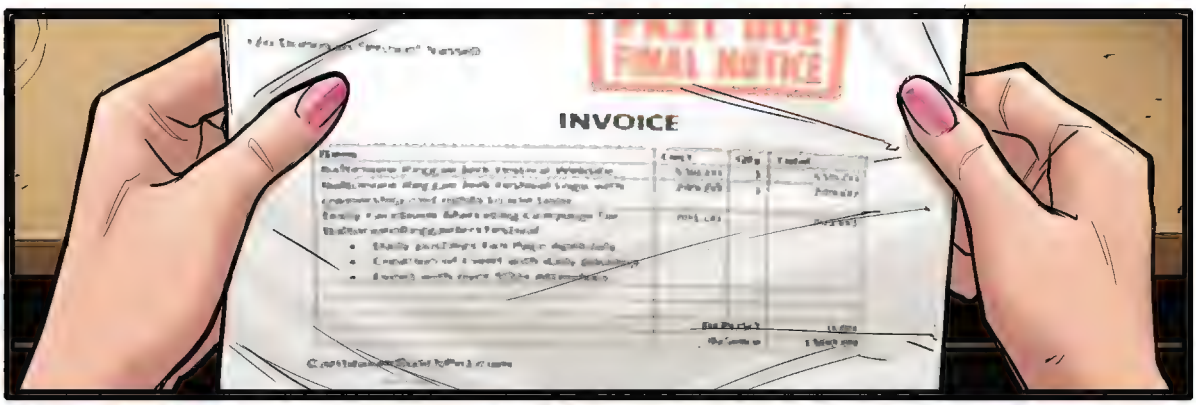
"AN INTERDIMENSIONAL CRAZED KING WITH A GOLDEN ORB."
YES. FIGHT.
FIGHT AND BE MY CHAMPION, WHIPLASH!
WH-KSHHH
LISTEN TO ME, BLACK LAMA!
ON YOUR WORLD, YOU ARE A GOOD KING. THIS UNIVERSE HAS DONE SOMETHING TO YOUR MIND.
YOU HAVE TO RESIST IT. YOU HAVE TO RETURN AND--
CHZZZZ
"HE SET UP THESE BIZARRE TRIALS. IT WAS A LAST-MAN-STANDING KIND OF THING.
"WHOEVER WON WOULD TAKE THE BLACK LAMA'S POWER AND HIS KINGDOM."
YES. DESTROY HIM!
KILL HIM AND BE MY CHAMPION!
"BASICALLY, HE'D COMPLETELY LOST IT."
CRNCH

HNF!
CHOOOM
BACK OFF, WHIPLASH!
BLACK LAMA, I REALIZE YOU'VE LOST YOUR MIND, BUT FIGHTS TO THE DEATH CAN'T BE THE BEST WAY TO SOURCE EMPLOYEES.
YOU MOCK ME?
I'M NOT MOCKING. I HONESTLY BELIEVE YOUR WHOLE RECRUITMENT MODEL NEEDS A RETHINK.
"HE PROJECTED HIS INSANITY ON ME. THIS WAS BEFORE I'D DEVELOPED A DEFENSE FOR THAT SORT OF THING.
"I SAW THINGS--FELT THINGS THAT... PROBABLY SHOULDN'T BE REPEATED TO THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD MONSTERS."
HRNNN!
I WAS ABLE TO OVERCOME THE PSYCHIC HIT AND SEND THE BLACK LAMA BACK TO HIS OWN UNIVERSE--

"--BUT IT ALMOST KILLED ME. I BARELY MADE IT BACK TO STARK INDUSTRIES IN ONE PIECE."
STARK INDUSTRIES
INDUSTRIES
KROOM
ARK INDUSTRIES
TONY!
HAPPY.
GET PEPPER.
WE NEED TO... TO...
"AND THEN..."

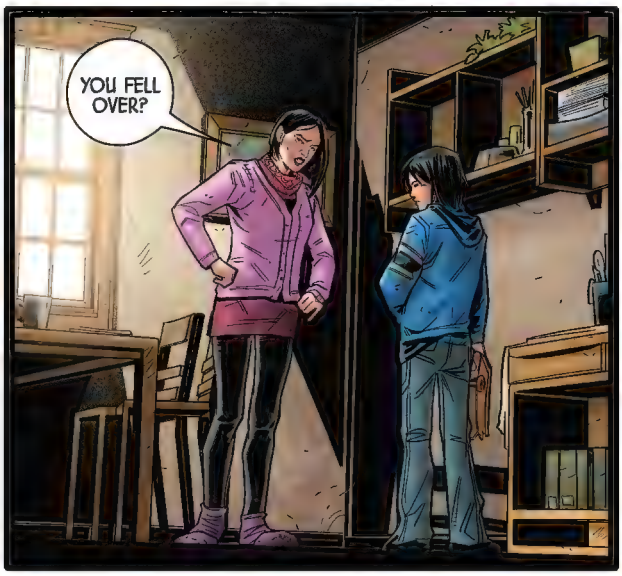
AND THEN?
I...
I CAN'T REMEMBER.
HOW DID A LLAMA BEAT YOU?
WHAT?
I MEAN, IT HAS HOOVES. HOW DID IT HOLD THE ORB THING? WAS IT TIED AROUND ITS NECK OR...?
I WASN'T FIGHTING A--
HE WAS A POWERFUL MYSTIC!
HUH?
A *LAMA*, ONE 'L'. LIKE A GURU.
YOU WERE PICTURING ME FIGHTING AN *ACTUAL LLAMA?*
WELL... YEAH.
YOU...
FORGET IT.

THE REPORT SAID TWO PEOPLE WERE BADLY INJURED IN THE EXPLOSION. IT DIDN'T MENTION THE CREATION OF A FIVE-YEAR-OLD MONSTER...?
NO.
SO WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?
"TWO WEEKS AGO."
YOU @#$%!
HNF!
NO!
PLEASE, TROY! DON'T--
UHHF!
NO!
CRACK


FINAL NOTICE
INVOICE

JAMIE?

JAMIE!
I FELL OVER.

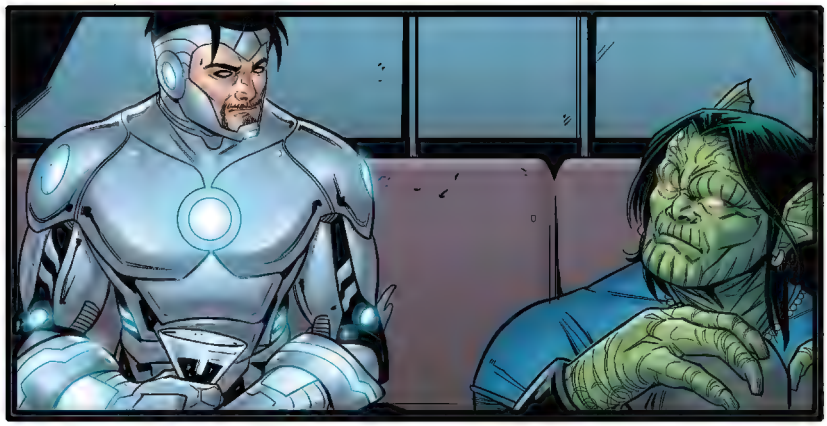

YOU FELL OVER?

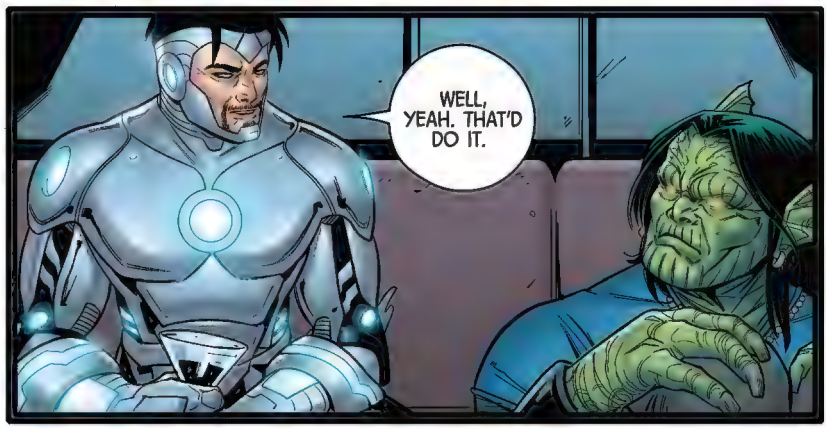
MAYBE IF YOU JUST *TRIED* TO BE A BIT MORE LIKE THEM?
MAYBE IF YOU JUST--

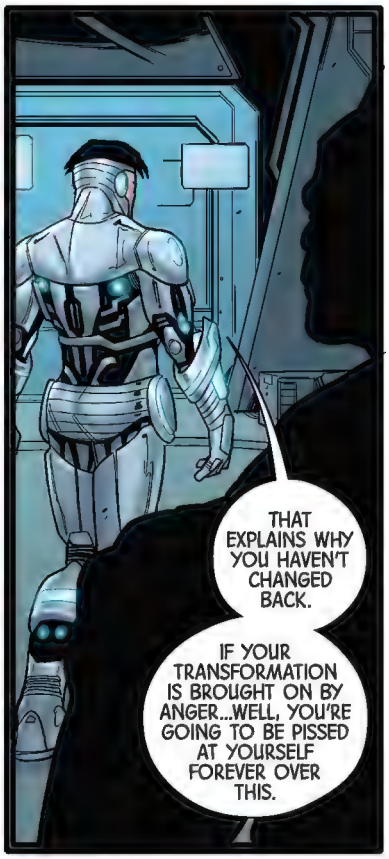
CAN WE GET A NEW SKATEBOARD?
I...WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING EXTRA AT THE MOMENT.
MAYBE FOR CHRISTMAS?

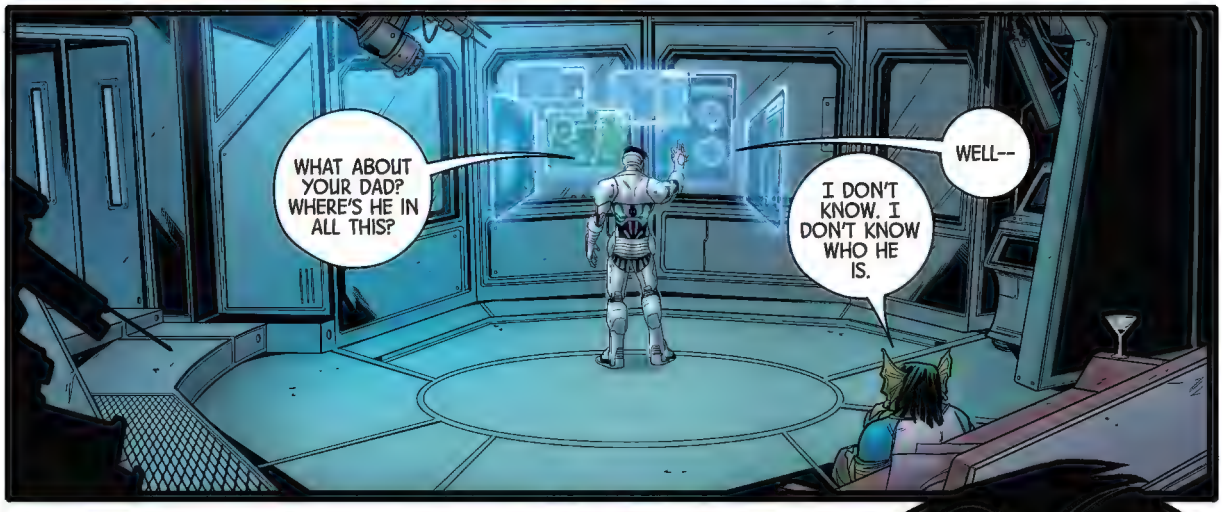
JAMIE!
LEAVE ME ALONE!
PLEASE. I CAN TALK TO YOUR TEACHER.
I DON'T NEED YOU TO!
WE'LL MAKE SURE THE BOYS DOING THIS ARE--
I DON'T NEED YOU TO PROTECT ME!

LEAVE!
ME!
ALONE!
WHHUMP
KRRRMM
MOM!
MOM...?
HNNGAAARGHHH!




WELL, YEAH. THAT'D DO IT.

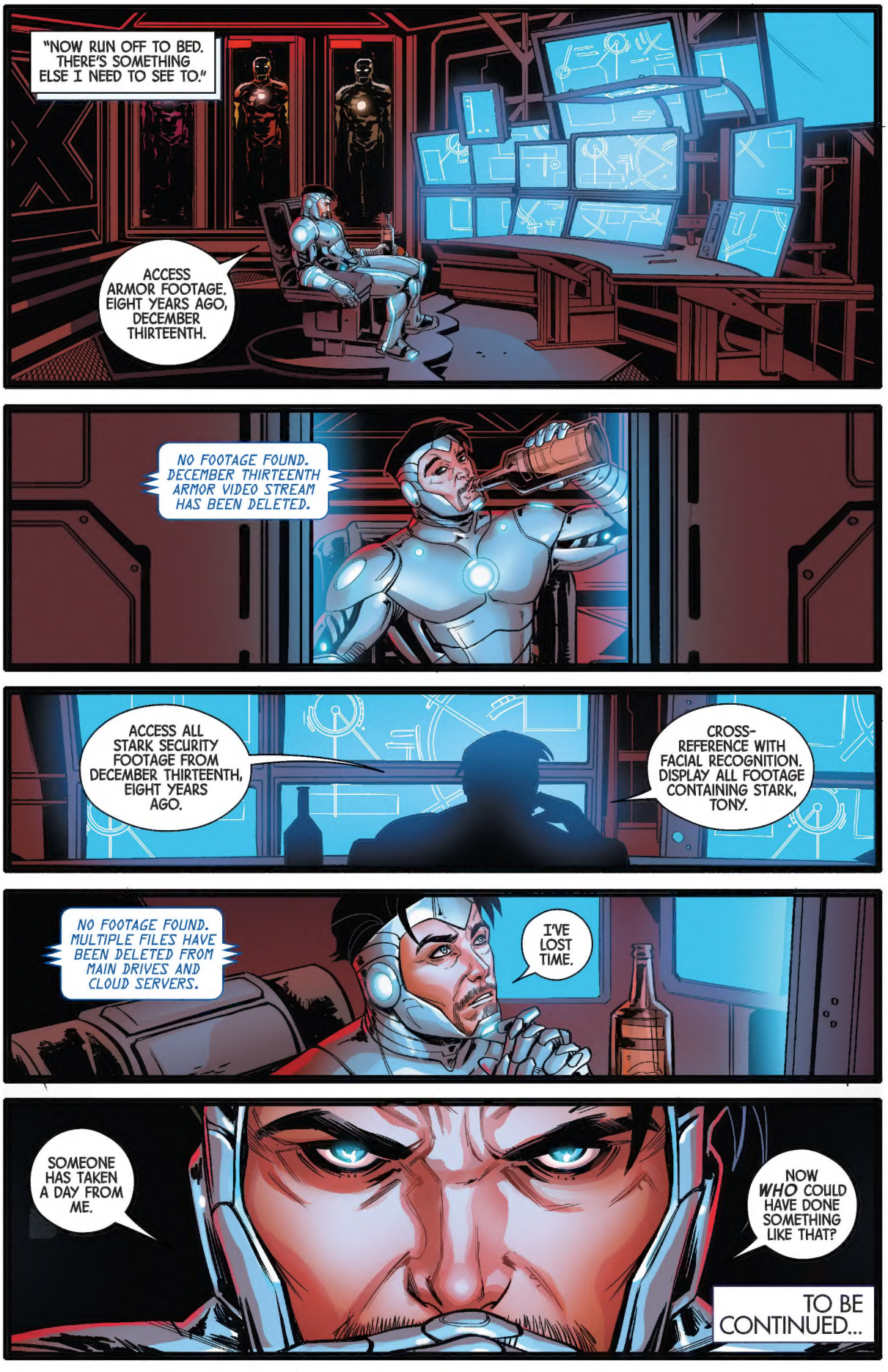

THAT EXPLAINS WHY YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED BACK.
IF YOUR TRANSFORMATION IS BROUGHT ON BY ANGER...WELL, YOU'RE GOING TO BE PISSED AT YOURSELF FOREVER OVER THIS.


WHAT ABOUT YOUR DAD? WHERE'S HE IN ALL THIS?
WELL--
I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS.

--YOU'RE ABOUT TO.
HUH?
I SAID THIS THING WOULD TELL US EVERYTHING. THAT INCLUDES...

Paternal father:
HAROLD HOGAN
HAPPY?
HAPPY HOGAN IS MY DAD?
WAS YOUR DAD.
HE DIED.
OKAY.

YOU'RE THE SON OF ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE I ACTUALLY CARED ABOUT.
I AM GOING TO HELP YOU NOW.
YOU ALREADY SAID YOU WERE GOING TO HELP ME...?
YES. BUT IN ACTUALITY, I WAS GOING TO PULL YOU APART AND WORK OUT WHAT YOUR CELLS ARE DOING IN ORDER TO HARNESS YOUR CONDITION FOR FUN AND PROFIT.
DON'T GET ME WRONG, I'M STILL GOING TO FIND A WAY TO MONETIZE ALL OF THIS.
BUT I'LL ALSO SPEND SOME TIME TRYING TO WORK OUT HOW TO REVERSE WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU.
WE'LL START TOMORROW.
DO YOU NEED TO GO OUT AND PROTECT THE CITY?
NO. I'VE SET UP A HUGE NETWORK OF FLOATING CAMERAS THAT MONITOR THE ENTIRE POPULACE AND CAN SEE THROUGH WALLS.
NO ONE IN SAN FRANCISCO IS DOING ANYTHING THEY SHOULDN'T BE. THEY KNOW THEY'RE BEING WATCHED. MOST OF THEM ARE JUST THINKING UP REALLY CREATIVE WAYS NOT TO BE NAKED.


"NOW RUN OFF TO BED. THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I NEED TO SEE TO."
ACCESS ARMOR FOOTAGE. EIGHT YEARS AGO, DECEMBER THIRTEENTH.
NO FOOTAGE FOUND. DECEMBER THIRTEENTH ARMOR VIDEO STREAM HAS BEEN DELETED.
ACCESS ALL STARK SECURITY FOOTAGE FROM DECEMBER THIRTEENTH, EIGHT YEARS AGO.
CROSS-REFERENCE WITH FACIAL RECOGNITION. DISPLAY ALL FOOTAGE CONTAINING STARK, TONY.
NO FOOTAGE FOUND. MULTIPLE FILES HAVE BEEN DELETED FROM MAIN DRIVES AND CLOUD SERVERS.
I'VE LOST TIME.
SOMEONE HAS TAKEN A DAY FROM ME.
NOW WHO COULD HAVE DONE SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
TO BE CONTINUED...

SUPERIOR CLASS MAIL

Welcome to our first letter column, fans. I couldn't ask for a more enthusiastic batch of e-mails from you all. Seems like we're scratching an itch with our aloof and self-centered "super hero." Glad to see so many people enjoying this new take on Tony. I have to admit, we're having a lot of fun putting it together. Such a guilty pleasure! Now onto your letters (some edited for space):

This book is just freakin' amazing. If there is one thing that has come out of the Inversion that has to stick around for a while it just has to be SUPERIOR IRON MAN. Please turn this into an ongoing series! I know I cannot be the only one out there thinking this. Plus, it's not like any of the effects of the Inversion can't be undone at some point but right now, this Tony Stark is the most interesting and complex he's been in a long time. Keep up the awesome work and please let this be an ongoing! It's just too good to be only a few issues.

-Michael Puckett

"MORE SUPERIOR" is the message we're getting from many readers, Michael. All I can say right now is that we'll publish as many issues as possible until... EVERYTHING ENDS...!

Hey everyone!

I am from India. It's the first time I am writing to you guys. What propelled me write this to you was SUPERIOR IRON MAN #3. **IRON MAN IS THE ULTIMATE SUPERHERO ANYONE COULD EVER THINK OFF!!!!** And I mean it. Until 2008, I used to be like "Superheroes are just for kids" and "I am too old for Superhero Sci-Fi". I AM 17 AND I NOW A DIE HARD **IRON MAN** FAN. After watching the 2008 movie, I was so impressed with IRON MAN that I read all about Tony on Wikipedia. I have been trying my best to keep up with current developments Tony's life.

I started with Kieron Gillen's run but was a bit surprised when I read that Tom Taylor and Yildiray Çınar's Tony was going to be a badass. When I read the SUPERIOR IRON MAN series you genuinely had me hating and cursing Tony for a while. I mean you turned me against a guy I admired so much. I decided to take Physics as subject of intermediate school, so that one day, I can make my own Iron Man armor. That is where you, I feel, succeed as story-tellers. Thank you for those 30 wonderful minutes of pleasurable reading that you present to me in the form of your books. Not many people in India read comic books, let alone superhero comics. But I have a friend who is a SPIDER-MAN fan. We cherish it as a rare gift provided to us by you guys. Thanks for it.

I would like to congratulate you guys and wish you (and Tony most of all) best of luck.

Yours truly,
Kartikey Gupta
Lucknow, India

P.S.- Will we get to see Arno in the near future? And please revert back Tony into his humble self. I can not have my heart broken more, seeing my idol turning evil. Pretty Please!!! Yeah, and give my regards to Tony and Thor. He's having a tough time.

Thank you for the fine compliment on our storytelling, Kartikey. Tom Taylor knows his way around a story, that's for sure! And Yildiray gave us some excellent art to accompany Tom's fantastic scripts. I'm lucky as an editor to have such a great team putting their heart and soul into what is a true storytelling challenge as you mentioned. I'm also happy to hear from a fan in India. I think that comics are finding their way into more hands in this global age and it's great to hear about people discovering the magic of our unique medium. Oh, and keep an eye out for Arno Stark. The Marvel U. hasn't seen the last of him. Hint: SECRET WARS: ARMOR WARS!!!

Merry X-mas to you! Just closed Chapter Three of SUPERIOR IRON MAN. Soo cool! SUPERIOR SPIDEY was crazy cool and all, but this is it! Iron Man as all he could be! Lol/ jk. But seriously I really like how him and DAREDEVIL are pitted against each other. It works so perfectly. I can't wait to see how this all plays out. Will Tony Stark go beyond San Francisco with Extremis? #Starkworldproblems #superiorsecretwars #footprint? Can't hardly wait!

Anthony J. Bell

Keep reading for those answers, Anthony...ain't gonna spoil it but I can guarantee you'll love the remainder of this critically acclaimed run. Tom's been working hard to keep readers on the edge of their seats and he's got more great cliffhangers and twists coming.

I really love the SUPERIOR IRON MAN. When I saw another SUPERIOR title, I was rather worried. The new Tony character remains plausible, even after the loss of his philanthropy. Tie-in comics make it even better and DARDEVIL really adds some depth too. I think I will enjoy all of those issues.

Lou

Hope you dug the conclusion of the DAREDEVIL conflict, Lou. While I knew where Tom was going with it, he managed to surprise even me when he turned in the final script. Makes me want to see a DAREDEVIL book by Tom and Yildiray someday.

Well I like the whole idea of SUPERIOR IRON MAN but I really hate Tony Stark's new personality. Can the writers bring the old Tony back but keep the new armor after AXIS ends?

Emanuel Frank

That armor is pretty cool, eh, Emanuel?! Designing it was a really fun part of the development process. The Endo-Sym armor design is one of my favorites now and I hope we haven't seen the end of it either.

A new gamma-powered teen debuts called TEEN ABOMINATION. Meanwhile HULK is systematically depowering everybody who is gamma powered. If Hulk is taking away the gamma powers of everybody, why would he allow somebody to get NEW gamma powers? Don't you think he would have put into play preventative measures to prevent exactly that. And if not, wouldn't he know about it and stop it right away? This does not make sense!

James Moore

Over in Gerry Duggan and Mark Bagley's incredible OMEGA HULK arc, DOC GREEN has a long list of gamma-powered super-humans to tackle. As you'll see in this story—beautifully illustrated by guest artist Laura Braga and color geniuses Lee Duhig and Joey Weltjens of GURU eFX—Jamie got zapped years ago so there's no way DOC GREEN could have prevented it. Glad you're following both books and hope you find plenty about them to enjoy.

That's all the room we've got for this issue. It was a real kick getting your e-mails on the Tony you all love to hate. Keep them coming! Send your comments to MONDOMARVEL@MARVEL.COM and be sure to mark them OK TO PRINT.

MARK PANICCIA
SENIOR EDITOR
MARVEL COMICS

See you next issue when Tony's ruthless business strategies hit a new low and the cold war between him and Pepper begins to get hot!

BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN III

So...TEEN ABOMINATION started as a joke.

In fact, at one stage, he wasn't even Teen Abomination. He was, ridiculously, named TEEN MAN-THING.

Some jokes stay jokes. Some jokes grow legs, grow long hair, grow green, and get their own origin in the MARVEL UNIVERSE. This joke did this because he quickly stopped being a joke and became something else.

One of the challenges with writing SUPERIOR IRON MAN is that our main character is... well, kind of a *jerk*. You're not supposed to like him. Sure, you can enjoy his antics and his humor and his ego but this isn't the Tony we all know and love anymore. He's pretty unlikeable.

But stories need characters readers can root for. This was one of the reasons MATT MURDOCK was chosen to stand against Tony in our first arc. Matt is a guy we all root for, and seeing this twisted Tony from Matt's perspective really helped us shape our SUPERIOR IRON MAN.

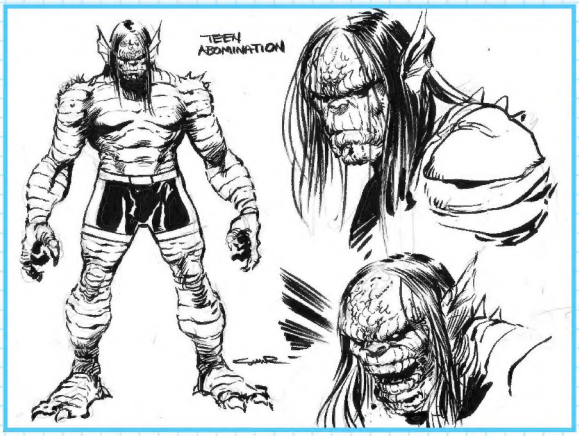
While Teen Abomination was originally created pretty much just for Tony to poke fun at and dismiss, our whole team, and especially Editor Mark Paniccia, really liked him. We all felt sorry for him as soon as we saw his humanity through Yildiray's art.

I remember Mark actually asked me to make sure Teen Abomination didn't really hurt anyone. He really liked the character and wanted him to be redeemable. Mark became really protective of Teen Abomination. So much so, he was even protecting him from me.

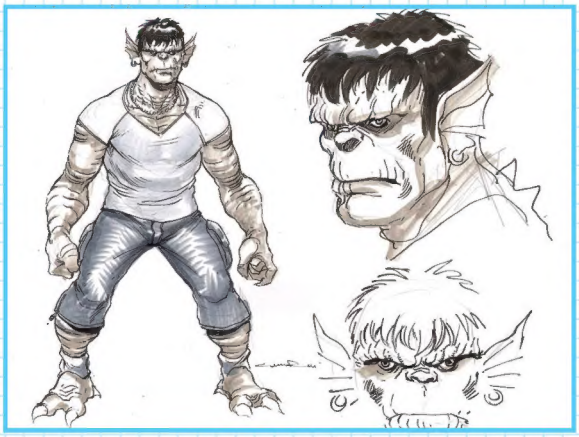
And so, when Mark asked me to write a flashback issue for Laura Braga in issue #5, I knew what I wanted to do. I wanted to tell the tragic origin of Teen Abomination. A young kid, bullied at school for being outside the mainstream, who was already feeling a bit uncomfortable in his own skin, who becomes trapped in far worse skin.

The challenge was then to tie him to our story and our characters in a fundamental way - to tie him to Tony. And I wanted even the cold, calculating heart of Superior Tony Stark to see what we saw in Teen Abomination. I wanted to give Superior Tony Stark someone he would feel protective of. We hope you'll feel protective of him too.

Tom Taylor



First version of Teen Abomination by Yildiray Çınar.



Take two leaning more towards a Hulk vibe.

NEXT ISSUE